

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUENOS 03244 271957Z POSS DUPE
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 L-03 HA-05 SY-05 CIAE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 /054 W
-----074247 272028Z /53
P 271835Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5522

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 3244

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ASEC, PINS
SUBJECT: LETTER ACCUSING ARGENTINE NAVY OF HUMAN RIGHTS
VIOLATIONS--POSSIBLE PROVOCATION

1. ON APRIL 20 THE EMBASSY RECEIVED A REGISTERED LETTER OF TEN PAGES AND THREE PAGES OF ENCLOSURES PURPORTEDLY WRITTEN BY A MONTONERO WHO HAD RECENTLY ESCAPED FROM 13 MONTHS IMPRISONMENT IN THE NAVAL MECHANICS SCHOOL IN BUENOS AIRES. THE LETTER CITES CASES OF A NUMBER OF PROMINENT ARGENTINES WHO HAVE DISAPPEARED OVER THE PAST YEAR WHO WERE HELD AND TORTURED AT THE MECHANICS SCHOOL. IT STATES THAT THE TWO FRENCH NUNS WHO DISAPPEARED IN DECEMBER 77 WERE ALSO HELD THERE. THE LETTER GIVES PARTIAL OF COMPLETE NAMES OF A NUMBER OF SECURITY OFFICERS WHO ARE SAID TO BE ASSIGNED TO THE DETENTION AND INTERROGATION CENTER AND STATES THAT THAT SEVERAL OF THEM HAVE TRAVELLED TO FRANCE TO WORK AGAINST MONTONERO ACTIVISTS THERE. THE ENCLOSURES TO THE LETTER ARE DRAWINGS SHOWING THE LOCATION AND LAYOUT OF THE DETENTION CENTER IN THE OFFICER'S CLUB AT THE MECHANICS SCHOOL. ON APRIL 25 THE EMBASSY RECEIVED A CALL FROM SOMEONE PURPORTING TO BE THE AUTHOR OF THIS LETTER WHO INQUIRED IF THE AMBASSADOR (WHO WAS OUT OF THE CITY) HAD RECEIVED IT.

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2. A REVIEW OF THE LETTER PURPORTEDLY SIGNED BY HORACIO DOMINGO MAGGIO RAISED SUSPICIONS IN OUR MINDS THAT IT MAY BE SOME SORT OF PROVOCATION. IT SEEMS ONLY TOO CONVENIENT FOR MANY OF THE MOST PROMINENT ATROCITIES OF THE PAST YEAR TO HAVE BEEN THE WORK OF ONE NAVAL UNIT. THE TELEPHONE CALL ATTEMPTING TO CONFIRM THE AMBASSADOR'S RECEIPT OF THE

LETTER ALSO SUGGESTS THAT THE SENDER HAS SOME ROLE FOR THE US EMBASSY TO PLAY IN HIS PLANS. THE LETTER STATES COPIES WERE BEING SENT TO THE FRENCH EMBASSY AND PRESS COUNSELOR, THE ARGENTINE EPISCOPAL CONFERENCE, THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS, AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL, THE MILITARY JUNTA, AND MANY OTHERS, INCLUDING THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS SERVICES. WE ARE TRYING TO CONFIRM THAT OTHER COPIES OF THE LETTER EXIST. THE EMBASSY IS ACTIVELY SEEKING INFORMED ARGENTINE OPINION ABOUT THIS LETTER AND WILL REPORT PROMPTLY WHEN SUFFICIENT INFORMATION HAS BEEN RECEIVED.

3. IN THE MEANTIME, SHOULD THIS LETTER SURFACE IN THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS CIRCLES OR HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS AND BECOME THE SOURCE OF QUESTIONS TO THE DEPARTMENT, THE EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT THE DEPARTMENT ACKNOWLEDGE THAT SUCH A LETTER HAS BEEN RECEIVED, THAT IT IS ONE OF MANY CONTAINING A WIDE VARIETY OF ALLEGATIONS, AND THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAS NO INFORMATION TO CONFIRM OR DISPROVE THE CHARGES IN IT. CASTRO

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, ALLEGATIONS, ATROCITIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780180-0953
Format: TEL
From: BUENOS AIRES
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780411/aaaaaiyk.tel
Line Count: 83
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: da44bda6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Date: 07 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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TAGS: ASEC, PINS, AR
To: STATE
Type: TE
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